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SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

No. 1
April 1979.

TO: Delegates to the Regional Small Farm Conferences

Several of you suggested a newsletter as a focal point for timely and new information of interest to small and part-time farm operators and their families. This may not be the final format but will serve as an interim communication with you and perhaps as a means of exchanging information. Please do route items to us you think useful to other delegates and we will condense them as space permits.

By now, you should have received a copy of the National Summary of the Regional Small Farms Conferences. If you did not, let us know and we will send you one.

Mississippi Holds County Small Farm Conferences

As a follow-up to the Southeast Regional Small Farm Conference, the Small Farm Committee in Mississippi held a Small Farm Conference in each county and made a special effort to get this group of farmers to the meetings. The program featured county representatives of USDA agencies outlining services available and answering questions. ACTION and CSA local staffs participated.

"A survey of small farm needs listed items offering assistance by agency, and has been very useful," reports Rupert Johnston, Extension Service, and state leader of the Small Farm Committee. For example, 396 people requested assistance with "cost sharing for soil and water conservation practices" from ASCS and over 200 requested help in four other areas. The survey included questions for FmHA, Extension, SCS, and Forest Service.

Secretary Bergland Suggests Seminars on Farm Structure

In a recent speech in Kansas City and also to farm magazine editors in Washington, D.C., Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has suggested that there is a need for a series of seminars or workshops to begin a serious dialogue about what kind of agriculture we want for the future in the U.S. He said he did not want to see an America where a handful of giant operators own, manage and control the entire food production system.

You will be hearing more about these seminars/workshops and hopefully small farmers will participate. A copy of the Kansas City speech is enclosed.

Low Interest Loans for Limited Resource Farmers Who Qualify

Limited resource farm operators who cannot pay the regular rate of interest because of low income are eligible for low-interest farm ownership and farm operating loans from the Farmers Home Administration. The Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 provides some very significant benefits including:

- . Loans for farm ownership and farm improvement may be made at 3 percent to qualified farmers. After 3 years, the rate increases to 5 percent and is reviewed every 2 years to determine the repayment ability of the farmer.
- . Farm operating loans may be made to qualified small farmers at 5 percent interest for the first 3 years. Then, the interest rate will be determined somewhere between 5 percent and the normal cost of money depending on the farmer's ability to pay.
- . Farm operating loans may be consolidated or rescheduled for payment over a period of up to 7 years from the date of such action.
- . Farm ownership and farm operating loan payments may be partially deferred to a maximum of 3 years where justified.
- . Farm operating loan limits are increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 except guaranteed operating loans may be made up to \$200,000.
- . Loan limits for farm ownership and other real estate are increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Where a loan guarantee is involved, a loan of up to \$300,000 may be made. There is no longer a limit on the total indebtedness.

Loans for farm operating, farm ownership and farm improvements can now be made to small family corporations, partnerships and cooperatives which are not larger than family size.

How does one apply? File an application at the county Farmers Home Administration office serving your area. If you are unable to locate the local office, contact Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, giving the name of the county in which the farm is located.

The farmer program regulations and procedures of FmHA have been completely revised to reduce the time to process and obtain a loan in county offices.

Report on ASCS Small Farm Demonstration Projects

In 1978, ASCS initiated projects to involve small farmers in conservation programs and improve their economic condition. A report for the 10 states which shows over 9,100 farms involved is enclosed. Eight of these 10 and some new ones will be funded for 1979 projects.

Secretary's Memorandum on Rural Development

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland issued Secretary's Memorandum No. 1979 on March 21, which sets forth departmental policy to improve economic opportunity and the quality of life in rural America. It includes: "The programs of the Department will be directed towards helping distressed rural areas, communities and people, especially those with limited incomes, minorities, and the aged, by helping provide a more equitable distribution of opportunities and access to essential services and facilities." It establishes a USDA Rural Development Coordinating Committee to be chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Rural Development.

USDA Briefing Paper on Foreign Ownership of U.S. Land

"Foreign Ownership of U.S. Land" was the title of an Issue Briefing Paper (No. 11) by USDA on March 1. It pointed out that "reporting foreign-held agricultural land is required by the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (enacted Oct. 14, 1978). About half of the states have laws that place some constraints on foreign ownership of land, and half do not. One study shows that foreign investors acquired about 827,000 acres of farm and ranch land between Jan. 1, 1977 and June 30, 1978 and less than half was cropland. The General Accounting Office is conducting a study now in 100 counties. This report is scheduled to be completed in May 1979.

Tax Break for Some Soil and Water Conservation Payments

The Revenue Act of 1978 provides that cost-sharing payments received after October 1, 1979, under certain Federal and state conservation programs can be excluded from gross income for tax purposes. Check with your local ASCS or Internal Revenue Service office to find out how much of payments will be excluded from farm income. Soil and water conservation expenses may be deducted as a current expense instead of being added to the cost or basis of the land. This may be important if you have to meet requirements of clean water laws. State program payments for conservation, environmental protection, forest improvement, or wildlife are also exempt.

Small Farm Assistance Projects (SFAP)

In a continuing follow-up effort as a result of the five regional Small Farm Conferences to provide small farm families "a more equitable distribution of opportunities and access to essential services and facilities," USDA has initiated Small Farm Family Assistance Projects (SFAP). These projects encourage USDA agencies to use existing funds

in a cooperative effort including CSA and ACTION to help small and limited resource farmers. They may include an expansion of the ASCS Small Farm Demonstration Projects, or they may be a new project proposed through the State Rural Development Committees. Proposals are being accepted from the states now and final selection will be announced about May 1.

Butchering Workshop in Michigan; Sheep Shearing School Scheduled

The first joint program by the Small and Part-time Farmer Project in Washtenaw, Lenawee and Monroe counties in Michigan was a Butchering Workshop. Total of 35 men and 11 women attended to study the slide demonstration and to take part in the cutting of a pork carcass. Resource person was A. E. Reynolds, Extension specialist in meat and poultry products, Michigan State University. Ken Ludwig, Extension Agricultural Assistant, works with the Small Farmers Program. A sheep shearing school has been scheduled on the MSU campus.

Guide to Fresh Farm Products Helps Selling Direct

"Your guide to fresh farm products from Puget Sound" says the cover of the Puget Sound Farm Markets Association map-directory which lists growers, crops available and approximate dates to call and verify harvest dates.

This fully self-supporting, non-profit cooperative was incorporated in 1977. Regular members are farmers who sell their products on or near their farms through roadside stands, or U-Pick operations. The 8-page folder also has a seasonal chart of local farm products. Total of 57 farms are listed. The maps are distributed by the Chamber of Commerce (Puyallup, WA), libraries, and other outlets. For a free copy of the map-directory, write to Puget Sound Farm Markets Association, Box 484, Puyallup, WA 98371.

Roadside Stands Are Big Business

In 1976, there were 8,915 roadside stands, 3,069 pick-your-own farm operations and 541 of the more permanent farmers' markets operating in 41 of the states and the District of Columbia, reports H.R. Linstrom, ESCS-USDA. Roadside stands in 17 states alone grossed \$209 million in 1976.

List of Materials on Farm-to-Consumer Direct Marketing

We think anyone wanting more information about farmer-to-consumer direct marketing will find the Agricultural Marketing Service list (AMS-577) of materials an excellent resource. Many of the references are connected with the Extension Service. Your local County Extension office (usually listed under the county government in the phone book) can get you copies of materials from your state and probably help with getting copies from other states. We do not have copies in D.C. A copy of the list is enclosed.

Small Farms Program for Six New England States

A new cooperative and innovative Small Farms Project for six New England States is being developed by ACTION, CSA, FmHA and Extension Service with joint funding and planning. Pat Sackrey, University of Massachusetts, and co-chairperson for the Northeast Regional Small Farms Conference, is providing much of the leadership.

Goal of the project includes identifying small farmers and reaching them with useful materials and programs at the local level.

South Dakota Prepares Director of Assistance to Small Farmers

The South Dakota Small Farm Committee is preparing a directory of assistance for small farmers called "Small Farm Opportunities." CAP agencies will fund the printing. Each agency will have up to two pages to briefly describe programs available that could benefit small farmers. The location of local offices will be listed. County Rural Development Committees will hold public meetings of small farmers to distribute the booklet and discuss their programs.

The South Dakota State Rural Development (RD) Committee is forming a small farmer advisory committee in each county by requesting the County RD Committee to select five small farmers for the new committee. This advisory committee will meet on a quarterly basis, depending upon the needs of the County RD Committee, to advise how government agencies can better serve the needs of small farmers. The members of this advisory committee will serve at their own expense. If a farmer in the county attended the Regional Small Farms Conference, he will also serve on the advisory committee.

New Enterprises for Small Farmers Established in North Carolina

Five new enterprises for small farm families have been introduced in North Carolina. They are: Christmas trees, native shrubbery, green house tomatoes, strawberries, and recreation. These enterprises were suggested by Extension Farm Management Specialists and Economists at North Carolina State University as being feasible for Appalachian counties. Financial assistance is being provided by the Farmers Home Administration. Extension and the Appalachian Regional Planning Committee will provide management assistance through local aides to the farmers.

Montana Ranch Women Sell Own Beef

When eight Montana ranch women went in search of a market for beef, they found consumers would buy a high quality canned beef product. Now incorporated under "Montana Ranch Beef", they are distributing their canned beef to major supermarkets in the state!

Forest Products Marketing and Management Association in Maine

Through a joint effort, the Maine Forest Service and the Maine Rural Development Committee with USDA furnishing financial and technical assistance are developing the Forest Products Marketing and Management Association in central Maine. This will be a self-supporting forestry cooperative to help the small woodlot owner. Private forest owners harvest 38 percent of our softwood and 76 percent of hardwood. These 4 million landowners hold the key to much of the potential growth of our forestry resources.

Opening a Can of Worms?

At the risk of opening a can of worms when it is too cold in most of the nation to use them for fishing, we quote from a Securities Act Release No. 15345, Nov. 20, 1978:

"The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Midwest Securities Commissioners Association today expressed concern regarding the offer and sale to members of the public of investments involving earthworms. These investments usually take form of the purchase by members of the public of worms sufficient to stock a bin or bed of varying sizes for prices ranging from \$375 to \$800, coupled with certain services and expertise to be rendered by the seller and a guarantee to purchase worms at a later date. Worms purchased from promoters at \$375 to \$800 per bin, in many cases, can be purchased wholesale for approximately \$25 to \$50.

"In many instances, these worm promotions can only survive if additional public investors continue to purchase worms at inflated prices in order that money can be generated to honor guarantee buy-backs previously issued by the seller. Accordingly, it is recommended that purchasers and investors obtain as much information as possible about the companies and individuals with whom they are dealing. Investigate before you invest."

At a recent workshop in the Pacific Northwest, it was pointed out that there is not a viable market for worms in the region.

Inside Information

- ACTION has established a Rural Initiatives Task Force to develop recommendations concerning ACTION's priorities for rural programming, especially for low-income small farm families.
- CSA has appointed Peggy Wheeler as Rural Development Coordinator. She will serve as the focal point in the agency for CSA and inter-agency rural development activities, especially those supportive of limited-resource small farmers.
- USDA has issued a memorandum establishing a policy committee of Assistant Secretaries and a USDA Small Farm Work Group comprised of representatives from the various agencies which will conduct small farm activities for the Department.

Secretary Bob Bergland said in the memorandum: "It is the policy of this Department to encourage, preserve and strengthen the small farm as a continuing component of American agriculture. It is further the policy of the Department to provide, on its own initiative when appropriate, assistance which will enable small farmers and their families to expand the necessary skills for both farm and nonfarm employment to improve their quality of life. It is the priority of this Department to encourage small farm operators to participate more fully in all USDA programs."

Help for California Small Olive Growers in "Pits" Now

A California farmer/delegate at the Southwest Small Farm Conference, Albuquerque, N.M., reported that the olive industry was in the 'pits' as far as some 300 small farmers were concerned. Low prices, inadequate marketing outlets coupled with a bumper crop made for a disastrous situation.

Federal and state agencies met with the producers to determine courses of action. The Cooperatives Division of ESCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., and the University of California, are investigating the feasibility of several approaches.

Colorado Rabbit Cooperative Is Now "Hopping" Along

The Colorado Rural Development Committee spurred by two farm delegates to the Southwest Small Farm Conference, Albuquerque, N.M., is assisting the emerging Four Corners Rabbit Cooperative Inc., Cortez, Colorado to become viable.

The revived interest has generated additional membership and production. The Community Services Administration and FmHA are reviewing grant and loan fund needs.

This Small Farm project has a potential of several hundred members. Feasibility studies show that markets are assured.

Small Scale Farmers: A Unique Set of Problems?

The Farm Index (March, 1979), published by USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS), has a three-page feature related to the five Regional Small Farms Conferences, concerns and actions. Also, on page 22, you may want to ask for a free subscription to one or more of the six USDA Farmers' Newsletters. A copy is enclosed. We are also enclosing a copy of the 1978 USDA Yearbook and a letter from Secretary Bergland.

This report was prepared by the USDA Small Farm Working Group. Send correspondence to Carl Larson, Farmers Home Administration, or Ovid Bay, Science and Education Administration, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Enclosures: Speech by Bergland; Farmer-to-Consumer List; Farm Index (March) 1978 USDA Yearbook

SMALL FARMER PROJECTS

ASCS

To involve small farmers in conservation programs and improve their economic condition.

1. Michigan - ACP Funding 1978 - \$75,000, 1979 Allocation - \$75,000
Baraga and Houghton Counties

To improve the farms according to a farm management plan. As a result, forage production was improved which resulted in improved dairy and beef production. Participating farms -- 88. Other agencies involved included SCS and SEA-ES. Measures used included seedings, diversions, ponds and sod waterways.

2. North Carolina - ACP Funding 1978 - \$100,000, 1979 Allocation - 0
(Completed in 1978)
Alamance County

To assist small farmers with ACP practices on farm land in solving conservation problems, especially soil erosion. Participation involved all USDA and other governmental agencies in the county. Participating farmers 280. Measures used included diversions, ponds, and sod waterways.

3. Tennessee - ACP Funding 1978 - \$296,910, 1979 Allocation - \$250,000
McMinn and Monroe Counties

To encourage small farmers to participate in land management practices in order to prevent agricultural related pollution along Chestuee Creek. Number of participating farms in the area - 710. Participating agencies included all USDA agencies in the two county area. Measures used: seedings, top dressing, ponds, animal waste facilities and timber stand improvement.

4. West Virginia - ACP Funding 1978 - \$61,873, 1979 Allocation - \$20,000
Jackson and Woods Counties

To involve small farmers in conservation on farms where conservation problems were not being fully met because of over grazing which caused severe erosion. Number of farmers participating - 42. Participating agencies SCS and SEA-ES. Measures used: seedings, timber stand improvement, ponds, shrub control, and grazing land improvement.

5. Ohio - ACP Funding 1978 - \$236,413, 1979 Allocation - \$175,000
Callia, Lawrence, Jackson and Vinton Counties

To assist small farmers in overcoming conservation problems of erosion on pasture and farm land caused by over grazing. Measures used included vegetative cover establishment, topdressing and construction of ponds. Participating agencies - USDA rural development committee and ASCS. Number of participating farms in the four county area 6,509.

6. Illinois - ACP Funding 1978 - \$378,000, 1979 Allocation - \$250,000
Brown County

A 68,000 acre area in Brown County in west central Illinois where more than 200 farmers are being helped. With various agencies assisting the following measures are being installed: terraces, ponds, erosion control structures, critical area seedings and cropland seedings.

7. Oklahoma - ACP Funding 1978 - \$154,948, 1979 Allocation - \$15,000
Hughes County

The 5,760 ACRE Leader Creek Watershed in Hughes County in east central Oklahoma is draining into the town of Atwood's water supply. This project is to carry out non-point pollution control on farms in the watershed area. Measures used: seedings, terraces, sod waterways, ponds and sediment retention reservoirs.

8. New Mexico - ACP Funding 1978 - \$170, 1979 Allocation - \$200,000

A water management project on 116,000 acres in parts of 6 counties in north central New Mexico. To install systems to make better use of available water in the acquias (water management units) as an example for other farmers. Involves over 400 small farmers. Measures used: irrigation water conservation and management installations.

9. Alaska - ACP Funding 1978 - \$150,000 - 1979 Allocation - \$150,000

A new agricultural area of 60,000 acres in Fairbanks County in central Alaska. This project is to encourage installation of conservation practices. Difficulties in developing area are great because of permafrost. (The State of Alaska is investing funds (\$5.2 million) in the land development efforts in the Delta Project.) Measures being cost-shared: timber stand improvement, stripcropping, windbreak development, and conservation tillage.

10. Washington - ACP Funding 1978 - \$56,560, 1979 Allocation - 0
(Project completed)
Yakima County

Wenas Valley in northeast Yakima County in south central Washington on 80 farms. A number of these are small, part-time farmers. An irrigation water conservation project to meter available water and better manage its use. All practices were obligated in 1978 as planned, installation to be completed in 1979. Measures used: irrigation water conservation, erosion control structures, water management systems for pollution control, special practices - installation of metering devices for good water use measurement.



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SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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10 Meetings to Discuss Structure of American Agriculture Announced

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has announced the dates and locations of 10 one-day meetings where he will listen to public comments and suggestions on the broad range of economic and social issues that affect the structure of American agriculture and rural communities.

They are:

Nov. 27 -- Montpelier, VT
Nov. 28 -- Fayetteville, NC
Nov. 29 -- Huntsville, AL
Dec. 4 -- Sioux City, IA
Dec. 5 -- Sedalia, MO

Dec. 6 -- Wichita Falls, TX
Dec. 11 -- Boulder, CO
Dec. 12 -- Spokane, WA
Dec. 13 -- Fresno, CA
Dec. 18 -- Lafayette, IN

Details on the time and place in each city will be announced soon. Your local County Extension Office or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will have this information.

In advance of these 10 meetings, USDA is compiling an extensive series of background issue papers to provide basic facts and statistics which outline the major questions that impact upon the structure of agriculture. This material will be published and distributed.

For those people who want to make their views known but are unable to attend one of the 10 public meetings, USDA will maintain an open record in Washington for them to send in their comments and suggestions. Inquiries and comments should be directed to the: Project Coordinator, Structure of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Small Farm Assistance Programs Announced for 16 States

As part of the continuing followup to the five regional Small Farm Conferences, projects to help small acreage farmers in 16 States increase their production and income have been selected by ACTION, Community Services Administration and USDA. The projects range from a water conservation project to assist 22 Indian farmers in Mineral County, Nevada, to assisting low-income farmers in Fleming County, Kentucky, to a cooperative to help farmers in four counties in Maine market and store vegetables.

The projects are in the following states: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

For more details, contact the chairman of the State Rural Development Committee in any of the 16 States. Proposals from a total of 46 States were received.

The main purpose of the projects is to coordinate the resources of ACTION, CSA and USDA to help small and part-time farmers and their families. The cooperating federal agencies will provide technical and financial assistance to selected farmers by re-distributing existing funds.

Progress Reports From ACTION

In the State of Kansas, we have two outstanding VISTA rural projects. One is the ORO Development Corporation VISTA project headquartered in Wichita and operating throughout the entire State. The other is the Kansas Organic Producers, Inc., which is headquartered in Beloit and operates throughout the entire State of Kansas.

The ORO Development Corporation VISTA project is primarily concerned with establishing throughout the State of Kansas T.A.C.'s (Target Area Councils) which act as the base for community grassroots organizations. Their principal effort is expended in the area of migrant workers.

The principal emphases in the Kansas Organic Producers VISTA project are to provide area farmers with options in extending the marketing and profit potential for their products; to develop and produce small scale alternative energy equipment suitable for decreasing farm energy costs; and to assist low-income families to decrease cash outlay and improve the nutritional quality of food by home production, processing, and storage of food.

The New Hampshire Natural Organic Farmers Association has been approved for placement of 2 VISTAs to organize a farmers' market in Merrimack Valley involving low-income agriculture producers.

Two VISTA Volunteers assigned to the St. Landry Parish, Louisiana Vegetable Producers Co-op, are working with an experimental eight-acre irrigation demonstration farm where they are developing a model irrigated, non-energy intensive vegetable crop system for small farmers. They have been successful in introducing new crops to the small farmers such as broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, cabbage, peppers and eggplants.

The operation consists of a greenhouse which is used to grow plants for transplanting on the demonstration plots which furnish farmers with low cost plants.

The demonstration farm had an income of \$10,000 during 1978. The VISTAs recruited 50 farm workers to participate in the DOL farm workers training program. These participants will be paid an hourly stipend to be trained in vegetable production, while being able to upgrade and start their own farming operation while increasing their skills for a 15-month period.

VISTA Projects

1. Grant County Community Action Council Moses Lake, Washington

Volunteer activities include the development of a Community Cannery in Soap Lake which involve the efforts of VISTA and Retired Senior Volunteers CAC staff members, and small farmers in a three-county area of rural eastern Washington served by the sponsor. The Community Cannery processes and markets local fruits and vegetables for distribution to local food banks, cooperatives, senior nutrition sites and day care centers. Fresh, nutritious food is distributed to low income and elderly residents. The Community Cannery also provides a market for produce raised by local small farmers.

The Food Gleaning Project has also involved VISTA and Retired Senior Volunteers, and has provided a stable source of produce for the Community Cannery, food banks, cooperatives, senior nutrition sites and child care centers.

2. Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority Seattle, Washington.

Three locally-recruited VISTAs were assigned to this project on March 16, 1979. Volunteers will assist in the organization of at least twenty local outlets for the Bulk Commodities Exchange through buying clubs, food coops, schools, stores, restaurants and food banks. The purpose of the Exchange is to provide a bulk market for small farmers and producers in rural King County, who traditionally have been unable to market their produce through regular wholesale channels and have been receiving less than a fair price for their produce.

Food costs to low and moderate-income consumers will be reduced by increasing the availability of fresh produce at wholesale costs.

RSVP Projects

1. Mason-Thurston Community Action Council Olympia, Washington

Along with the Grant County CAC project discussed above, the most notable RSVP project example is in Olympia, where Retired Senior Volunteers have worked with sponsor staff and small farmers in the two-county area in developing a Farmers' Market. During the summer for the past three years, small farmers and producers have been able to market their produce each Saturday through the Farmers Market. Again, food costs to low and moderate-income consumers have been reduced, and small local farmers and producers now have access to a marketing outlet which provides a fair price for their produce.

Community Canning Center at Aurora, Missouri

The Aurora Community Canning Center was established in 1976 as a non-profit organization and funded by the local CAP office as part of its food and nutrition program.

With no paid staff and minimal budget, the Canning Center has had difficulty in generating enough membership to pay operating expenses. The sponsor received its first group of VISTA volunteers in March 1979.

USDA Report: Status of the Family Farm

The first report on the "Status of the Family Farm in the United States" as required by the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act (title I, sec. 102) has been sent to the chairman (Senator Herman E. Talmadge), Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, U. S. Senate.

The 40-page report is dated June 18, 1979, (44-916), and was prepared in the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS), USDA, under the direction of Donn A. Reimund. While the report contains no policy recommendations, it identified the data needs to address effectively the unanswered questions about the changing structure of American agriculture.

The report includes:

- Off-farm income increased from 43 percent in 1960 to 61 percent in 1977 as a proportion of total income to farmers and their families.
- In recent years, approximately 60 percent of land changing ownership has been added to existing, predominately family farms.
- Farm real estate prices nationally have nearly tripled in the last 10 years.
- The farm labor force decreased 58 percent between 1950 and 1977.

For a copy of the report, write to Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, U.S. Senate, 322 Russell Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510.

"Buildings for Small Farms"

The Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service has produced a new 32-page booklet of plans for small buildings which includes remodeling old barns, water requirement per day for animals, etc. Cost is \$1.25. Contact Bob Parsons, NRAES, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. You may want to ask for the catalog listing other booklets such as "Private Water Systems" (\$2.50) and "Energy Conservation and Solar Heating of Greenhouses" (\$1.50) .

The Midwest Plan Service has issued a "Inventory of MWPS Materials Suitable for Family Farms, Small Farms, and Recreation or Hobby". The list is impressive and includes small storage buildings, single row farrowing house for 8 sows, livestock handbooks, etc. For a catalog and prices for plans write to John Pedersen, Midwest Plan Service, 122 Davidson Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

Most County Extension offices have building plans from the state Extension agricultural engineer. Many of these are suitable for small farms.

"Practical Farm Buildings"

This is a 270-page text and handbook with on-the-job advice on farm buildings for non-engineers. The author is an agricultural engineer at Michigan State University. The book can be purchased from The Interstate Printers and Publishers, Danville, Ill. 61832 (Price: \$7.95 includes postage and mailing).

Michigan Extension Small Farm Programs

"Most counties in Michigan have done some programming specifically aimed at the small part-time farmer with 25 program assistants who are county funded," reports Tom Thorburn, Extension program leader in agriculture-marketing at Michigan State University. A recent issue of the MSU Extension Quarterly reviews a special effort in three south-eastern Michigan counties.

The MSU Farmers' Week program included specific programs for small livestock enterprises in horses, goats, rabbits, beekeeping, etc. At least two counties in Michigan now have newsletters for small farm families edited by Extension program assistants: The Farmsteader, Washtenaw county, by Ken Ludwig, and Lenawee Agriculturalist, Lenawee county, by Rebecca Clark.

First Washenaw county 4-H Family Goat Club has been organized. Initial meeting was attended by seven adults and eight kids (no pun intended) who had attended a 4-H goat workshop a few months ago.

Two Reports from Idaho

"As a result of followup to the Small Farm Conference held in La Grande, Oregon, Carl Van Slyke, Extension Agent, has formed a Small Farmer Advisory Committee in his county," says James Graves, Director, Idaho. "This committee is providing a very useful source in identifying problems of small farmers in that particular county."

Van Slyke reports that Al and Daryl Kyle were delegates to the Small Farms Conference in Oregon, and they have indicated they feel the conference was worthwhile.

"Organizing A Farmers' Market"

"Farmers markets are now reappearing and in Montana the sponsors have usually started out as a group of interested volunteers--those wanting fresh local grown produce and those wanting to market surplus fruit and vegetables," reports Allen Bjergo, Area Community Development Agent for Extension in Montana.

Bjergo has prepared a 20-page guide on "Organizing A Farmers' Market" which has many useful points to consider. His address is Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

Tri-State Small Farm Newsletter

Small farm operators in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts now have their own newsletter titled "Tri-State Small Farm Newsletter". Gary Zimmer, small farm management specialist, Kingston, Rhode Island, and Joe McCrea, West Springfield, Massachusetts, are the guiding lights. Circulation is over 2,000!

Small Farm Christmas Tree Demonstration in Georgia

Perry Pope and Bill Murray, two small part-time farmers in Grady County, Georgia, have initiated one-acre Christmas tree projects with assistance from the Extension Service.

They planted 1,000 trees per acre and will use their plantings and experience with other small farmers as a demonstration on how to grow, shape and market the trees. Christmas tree production has an excellent potential in Georgia.

Small Farmer Newsletter in Montana

A newsletter for the part-time farmer, homesteader and gardener is in its second year in Montana. It offers a set of instructions on how to build a pole building, what is the "peak of perfection for picking" vegetables, diagram of a water heater stove, etc. It appears to be real useful and is edited by Allen Bjergo, Extension Service, Bozeman, Montana.

Iowa Stops Sale of Farm Land to Foreigners

Iowa has passed legislation sponsored by Rep. Horace Daggett, a farmer, that prohibits foreigners from buying land to farm. They are allowed to buy land in limited amounts for industrial purposes. The new legislation is effective January 1980.

Iowa is the 26th state to restrict foreign land purchases in some form according to the Associated Press report. Iowa had previously restricted foreign farmland ownership to 640 acres per person. The AP report adds that a two-year investigation disclosed that only about 15,000 acres of Iowa land out of 36 million acres of arable farmland in the state is foreign owned. Also, some Iowa farmers do not like the new bill saying that they want to be able to sell to the highest bidder, and that they don't believe foreigners hurt our land any more than local farmers.

Oklahoma is considering enforcing a constitutional ban on alien ownership of any land in the state because of suspected economic domination by foreign interest. On the other hand, an AP report says Florida is booming partly because of huge foreign investments and Florida is encouraging this source of money. Thirteen foreign banks now have offices in Miami and 100 multinational corporations have located offices in Coral Gables. They are Latin America oriented.

New Hampshire Food Policy Recommendations

The New Hampshire Food Policy Study Committee has prepared an excellent 20-page report of recommendations. Goals and objectives are clearly discussed and listed. You can probably get individual copies from John Damon, Agriculture/Community Resource Development, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

New York: "A Guide to Farm Fresh Food"

Another excellent guide directing consumers to roadside farm stands, pick-your-own farms, farmers' markets, vineyards and wineries is one prepared by the State Department of Agriculture in New York. If you are preparing a directory and want to study the format used in this one, you can probably get a single copy by writing to J. Roger Barber, Commissioner, Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Albany, NY 12235. Thanks to Dave Handwerker for sending us a copy.

"Deciding Whether to Organize a Food Buying Club"

A workbook to help answer questions about a cooperative food buying club has been prepared by the Extension Division, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. It will help you explore the pros and cons. For single copies write to Jim Cranor, Extension Publications, VPI&SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

This report was prepared by the USDA Small Farm Working Group. Send correspondence to Ovid Bay, Science and Education Administration, or Craig Ahlberg, Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. If you have an activity or program other small and part-time farmers can use, we would like to hear from you.

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SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

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Farmers Who Sell Direct Can Accept Food Stamps

Farmers who sell directly to consumers can be authorized to accept Food Stamps reports Ed Watkins, Extension horticultural marketing specialist, USDA-SEA. Here's how you qualify:

- Farmers who operate their own roadside market, or Pick-Your-Own can make application to their nearest Food and Nutrition Service office--usually in the nearest medium-sized or large city.
- Farmers who sell through a Farmers Market may be able to have the "market secretary or other officers" make an application on behalf of all the farmers selling at this market.

For additional information, call the nearest FNS office, or Don Woodhead, FNS, Washington, D. C. (202-447-8313).

Hearings on Structure of Agriculture Well Attended

Farmers and spouses attending the 10 public meetings held by Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture, showed great concern for the future of the family farm. Major concerns included: Inflated price of land and difficulty of youth and small farmers finding land at any price, credit problems, government programs that tilt in favor of the larger operator, poor competitive position of the small farmer in buying inputs and in marketing, and increasing cost of energy.

A national summary of the hearings will be available soon. If you want a copy, write to Coordinator, Structure of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

1 Million Rabbits from 2,000 Producers

A feature in the Wall Street Journal reports that Pel-Freez Rabbit Meat, Inc., Rogers, Arkansas, bought more than 1 million rabbits in 1979 from 2,000 growers in the four corners of Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Average price was 55 to 61 cents per pound live weight. The company estimates farmers can expect a profit of \$20 to \$40 a year for each doe, and that one person can take care of up to 500 does.

Pel-Freez says the demand for rabbit meat is strong. They are selling some rabbit meat to the military, and bidding on sales to Belgium where rabbit meat is such a staple they need imports.

"Who Owns the Land?"

A study by ESCS attempted to get an up-dated report on who owns the land in the U.S. They conclude that 60 percent is in private hands; the Federal government holds 762 million acres, State and local governments 136 million acres, and 51 million acres owned by or held in trust for American Indians. Total held in private hands is 1.25 billion acres.

For a copy of the report, write ESCS Publications, Room 0054-S, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, and ask for ESCS Report No. 70.

Red Hook Farmers' Market Opens in New York City

Five farmers were selling about \$2,000 in vegetables and fruit per week by the end of their first season in the newly organized Red Hook Farmers' Market on Columbia Street in the middle of the Red Hook Housing Project in New York City.

Basically, the market is an outgrowth of the increased concern and awareness of community residents about food freshness, quality, flavor, safety and price. There was much coordination behind the scenes which included: Dave Handwerker, Extension; Bob Lewis, NYS Dept. of Ag Markets; Barry Benepe, Greenmarket, director; Mary Ann Webb and Lydia Maldonado, EFNEP; Nilda Quiles, Red Hook Tenants Assn., the New York City Housing Authority office of information and others.

Breakfast Meetings for Small and Part-Time Farmers?

The Tri-State Small Farms Newsletter reports some interest from small farmer contacts in holding early morning breakfast meetings for those who cannot attend day or evening meetings. Other news includes:

--Harold Markum, president, Southern Rhode Island Small Farm Assn., says they have jointly ordered agricultural supplies in bulk with some savings, and have formed two farmer markets.

--Dick Weber, president, Connecticut Small Farm Assn., reports during their first year they cooperatively bought rock phosphate, held monthly programs on taxes, farm management, maple sugaring, hog/potato/tomato growing, and held two summer farm tours. This year they plan to buy bulk fertilizer and start a vegetable seed purchasing program.

- A 50-page resource directory by the Tri-State staff gives state agencies, federal agencies, local and private groups, farmer markets, food coops, farm organizations, feed and equipment cooperatives, and many associations.

Farm Management Publication for Part-time Farmers

This 16-page publication has summary tables giving the resource requirements for different enterprises--labor per unit, water, cash expenses, cash return, land area needed, capital turnover, for 1 cow, 1 sow, 1 sheep, 100 birds, 1 calf, etc. It was prepared by John Brockett, farm management specialist, Pennsylvania.

For a copy, write to Publications, Cooperative Extension Service, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802 and ask for Publication NE-209 "Farm Management for Part-time Farmers"...and, enclose 20 cents.

Small Farmer Activity in Florida

The Florida Small Farm Subcommittee is proceeding with the development of "Small Farm Demonstrations" according to Clarence Edmunds. He stresses the role of the staff and paraprofessionals from Florida A&M in reaching small farmers in Florida. His report included:

- Gadsden County. 1 acre Southern pea demonstration on one farm produced 240 bu. peas valued at \$1,400; 1 acre demonstration of okra produced \$1,000 income.
- Sumter County. Help has been given to 140 small commercial vegetable producers, 105 backyard fruit growers, 70 small beef producers, and 15 small farmers with swine; over 300 farmers have tested their soils.
- Manatee County. The Manahill Small Farmer Vegetable Marketing Cooperative members have expanded their total tomato acreage from 100 to 500 acres to become a successful small farm marketing coop.
- Hard times -- and then Tomatoes! Farmers in Gadsden county had hard times when they lost the shade tobacco industry. With the help of IFAS vegetable and marketing specialists and other leaders, a tomato program was developed. Result: in 1978, growers harvested 1,100 acres of tomatoes worth \$8 million, and the tomato crop provided a lot of jobs in the county.
- Grow a Row of Vegetables Leaflet. A jacket cover which serves to display information for 11 "Grow A Row" leaflets has been prepared by Lawrence Carter, Florida A&M University Extension, and James Stephens, University of Florida Extension. The 4-page leaflets are well illustrated and have all of the basic information needed from planting to insect control to harvesting. (See your local County Extension Agent for gardening publications available for your State).

New Development Rights Programs

In a move to preserve some 10,000 acres of farm land in the area, the voters in King County, (Seattle) Washington, approved a \$50 million development right program last November to allow the purchase of the development rights of land from the farmers. Key points include:

- Purchasing the development rights from the farmer pays him a sum for his agreement not to develop the land for non-farming.
- Selling these development rights lowers the price of the land to its value for farming and may provide young people and others more opportunity to buy the land.
- The farmer who has held the land for a long time is fairly compensated for the value of the land, using appraised prices.

This is believed to be the first such county election of its kind.

In other States: In Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey, \$5 million has been appropriated by the state legislatures to begin purchase of development right programs (17 farms in 1979). In Connecticut, a \$10 million appropriation annually is being requested. In Maryland, they have a \$2 million budget to purchase development rights and anticipate an annual on-going budget of \$10-\$15 million.

Michigan Teaches 350 for Master Gardener Program

The Michigan Extension Service is using individual horticulture agents as resource persons to give volunteers 30 hours of lecture dealing with all areas of horticulture as part of the requirement for volunteers to educate people in horticulture. Then, after obtaining a score of 70 percent or better, each must contribute 20 hours of volunteer time before they are certified to conduct the program.

Some of the volunteer activities have included manning booths and displays, giving Extension agents office assistance, and doing programs and making homeowner visits, according to Robert Tritten, Extension Horticultural Agent. Michigan started the Master Gardener Program in 1975 and 350 are now working in seven counties.

Selected Papers From Direct Marketing Workshop

If you are looking for additional information about all phases of Direct Marketing, Pick-Your-Own, Roadside Marketing, and Farmers Markets, you will want to get a copy of an excellent collection of selected papers from a Direct Marketing Workshop held in Chicago, April 17-19, 1979. Write to Ed Watkins, SEA-Extension, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

These papers are mostly reports from different states giving results of successful techniques, organizational tips, reviewing mobile roadside stands, registering buyers, selling meat, etc. And, direct marketing has expanded: Indiana reports that direct farm marketing receipts have increased from about \$4 million in 1970 to nearly \$12 million in 1978.

"Energize" Your Winter Programs in Michigan

The Small Farm programs in Lenawee and Washtenaw counties in Michigan scheduled five energy programs this winter. They are dealing with passive solar energy, saving energy in farrowing and nurseries, biomass energy, heating with wood, and alcohol production.

New Small Community and Rural Development Policy

As this issue of the Small Farm Newsletter goes to press, a new "Small Community and Rural Development Policy" plan has been released by the White House. It includes three options on how to implement the plan. These will be discussed in five regional meetings, ending March 31-April 3. Your State Rural Development Committee will have specific information.

"Another Revolution in U.S. Farming?"

"Another Revolution in U.S. Farming?", Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 433, by ESCS, USDA, is a 10-page summary of the larger 450-page publication by the same title and No. 431. They contain a national overview as well as regional contrasts in farming. You may want to write for one or both to: ESCS Publications, Rm. 0054-S, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

"Research, Extension and Higher Education for Small Farms"

The 1979 report of the USDA Ad Hoc Committee on Small Farms of the Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences entitled "Research, Extension and Higher Education for Small Farms" is now ready for distribution. The 60-page report includes: Inventory of existing small farm work in research, Extension and higher education; additional work needed; a policy framework; the rationale for small farm work; and suggestions for action. Copies are available from: Executive Secretary, Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences, USDA, Room 351-A, Washington, D. C. 20250.

"People on the Farm: Black Families"

A new 20-page booklet with the above title prepared by USDA takes the reader to farms in Arkansas and Michigan and visits with successful black farm families who have been able to acquire and operate commercial-sized farms. The report was prepared by John Crowley, USDA. A copy is enclosed.

Small Farm Background and Summary Report

"USDA Small Farm Effort" is the title of a report by Craig Ahlberg, Executive Secretary, USDA Small Farm Working Group, to the 1979 USDA Outlook Conference.

The report gives the purpose and background of the current small farm effort by USDA, cooperation with ACTION and Community Services Administration (CSA), and an overall summary you may find useful. A copy is enclosed.

Carl Larson to be President of Green Thumb

Carl Larson, Coordinator of USDA's Small Farm Programs, has retired from USDA and has been named President of Green Thumb, effective February 15. Green Thumb is an older worker pilot employment project to demonstrate to America that older citizens can be meaningfully employed in our economy. Green Thumb can provide valuable community services such as weatherization, conservation, nutrition, and nursing home aids, community betterment projects and so on. The program is sponsored by the National Farmers Union with offices at 1012 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Enclosures

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This report was prepared by the USDA Small Farm Working Group. Please send correspondence and items about your Small Farm activities to Ovid Bay, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.



SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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"Structure of American Agriculture: Summary of Regional Meetings"

A summary of the 10 regional meetings held by USDA Nov. 27--Dec. 18, 1979, "A Dialogue on the Structure of American Agriculture" is now available. Considerable reference was made to the "problems of getting started in farming" and the "small farmer problem" as well as cost of energy, availability of capital and credit, marketing and transportation, land use and taxation.

For a free copy of the 120-page report, write to Coordinator, Ag Structure Project, Room 509-A, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

South Central Small Farms Research-Extension Center Planned

A new South Central Small Farms Research-Extension Center will be established near Booneville, Ark., during FY 80 by the Science and Education Administration-Agricultural Research (SEA-AR), with special earmarked funding to utilize state owned land which was available. The small farms research program will be carried out in cooperation with the University of Arkansas, other 1862 universities, 1890 institutions and Tuskegee Institute, and SEA-AR locations. It is anticipated research at this center will especially assist small farm operators and families in several states in the South Central area of the United States, and wherever the results apply.

Research emphasis will include: Goat and sheep production on hilly land, vegetables and small fruit for home consumption and direct marketing, beef production on grass with a minimum of grain, and pest management as part of a total farm system.

New Trout Co-op Swims Upstream to Sell Fish!

The Smoky Mountain Trout Growers Cooperative, Bevard, N.C., began processing and selling trout from its 30-member trout producers to major East Coast food outlets last January. The members--all located near the corners of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia--decided to form the co-op after the rising popularity of trout farming in the area during the past five years began to saturate the local markets.

A total of 24 local trout producers bought stock in the co-op. They have purchased four acres to build a processing plant. In the meantime, they are using the plant of a member on a part-time basis. Members who responded to a survey committed 752,356 pounds of fish to the co-op the first year, and still serve local markets.

A survey of 25 established trout markets which buy 713,000 pounds of trout annually indicated they are receptive to buying from the new co-op, assuming a dependable supply of quality fish (Farmers Cooperative magazine, March 1980).

6,000 In Pennsylvania Raising Rabbits

"Our rabbit industry now has about 6,000 people in the state raising rabbits," reports Herbert Jordan, Extension specialist in poultry and rabbits, Pennsylvania State University.

Jordan has tips on marketing rabbits such as calling all of the labs within 50 miles, etc. He conducts a two-day conference for rabbit producers each year and has a correspondence course called "Correspondence Course No. 109, Rabbit Production" which is very popular. The course includes lessons on housing, equipment, feeding, nutrition, disease, breeding, marketing and management. To obtain the course, send check or money order for \$4 made payable to The Pennsylvania State University, Box 5000, University Park, Pa. 16802. Also, summaries of the papers presented at the 1978 and 1979 Rabbit Conferences are available at \$3 per copy. Make payment as above to Penn State and send requests to William Sipple, 410 J. O. Keller Bldg., University Park, Pa. 16802.

"Rabbit meat could hop aboard the U. S. meat diet and eventually become as popular as chicken," says Denzil Maurice, Clemson University poultry scientist, in the mid-February issue of Farm Journal. "Compared with beef, lamb or pork, rabbit is considerably lower in fat and higher in protein, calcium and phosphorus."

"Let Us Show You Where to Find Help" (Oregon)

You don't have to print a directory of assistance tips for small farm families in a booklet with a cover. You can mimeograph or offset print "Where to Find Help" on 8 by 11 paper, color code each section differently and staple the sections as separate handouts.. Kelly Hudgens, small farm program assistant, and John Burt, ag Extension agent, Dallas, Oreg. (Polk County), have done just that and it looks very useful.

In addition to the usual list of resource agencies and people, etc., they waded into deep water with "How to Find a Good Farm in Polk County," "What Can You Raise on Your Farm," "About Tractors and Machinery for Small Farms," and "All About Bookkeeping and Taxes."

Programs Available to Help Small Farmers (Louisiana)

A good idea seems to keep spreading. A leaflet has been jointly prepared and published by the LSU Cooperative Extension Service, FmHA, SCS and ASCS to give resource tips to the small farmers in Louisiana. The 30,000 copies have been made available to agencies and organizations working with small and part-time farmers. For a free copy, contact Gerald Giesler, Knapp Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. 70803.

"Improve Your Farming: Directory of Services Available" (Illinois)

Another good directory of "services available to the small farmer" is the one compiled by the Illinois State Economic Opportunity Office with the cooperation of all the agencies and organizations whose services are included. Perhaps you can get a copy from State EOO, 623 East Monroe St., Springfield, Ill. 62701.

60 Organizations Listed in King County, Washington, Directory

The 40-page "Rural Development Resources Directory" for King County (Seattle) Washington lists 60 organizations and the services they each offer in a very useful format. The chart in the front of the booklet lists the association and service offered such as loans, marketing, technical assistance, etc., and the page for further details. The page of details includes a contact and phone number as well as the address.

The preparation of this publication was financed in part through an Area Development Assistance Planning Grant from the Farmers Home Administration.

"Directory of Services Available to Small Family Farmers" (North Dakota)

The North Dakota Small Farms Committee has compiled a directory especially to give assistance to small and part-time farmers and rural residents who have had limited contact with USDA agencies and others providing service to this clientele. The 24-page directory covers programs of USDA, branches of the State Department, other programs in the state, and gives a contact address and phone number.

Demonstrations Increase Crops Income in Nine Mississippi Counties

More than 300 people attended organized group tours in six counties, and individuals visited the following demonstration plots in nine counties in Mississippi as indicated: corn--329; peanuts--346; sugarcane--95; and sweet sorghum--220. Total of 17 program assistants supervised the demonstrations.

Introducing green peanuts and syrup crops for major cash income has resulted in an estimated \$125,800 gross income from major syrup crops and \$164,900 from green peanuts in the nine counties says William Patton, agronomy specialist, Extension Service, Alcorn State University, Lorman, Miss. Dr. Kelton Anderson, Extension agronomy leader, MSU, assisted with the demonstrations and TVA and other sponsors contributed fertilizer materials.

"Can Small Farms Be Successful?: Accomplishments of Four Farm Families"

A case history of the accomplishments of four farm families has been published by the National Fertilizer Development Center, TVA. You may want to get a copy to study the techniques used to extend and accumulate resources, and to see how they compare with farm business characteristics of 250 other program farms. A key to the success of the four was to add intensive enterprises, to intensify an existing enterprise, and to eliminate a relatively unprofitable enterprise.

For a copy, contact Roger Woodworth, Agricultural Resource Development Branch, TVA, Muscle Shoals, Ala. 35660. Ask for Circular Z-97.

Merger: New England Small Farmer Project and Tri-State

The Tri-States Small Farms Program and the Six States New England Small Farmer Project have merged efforts to become the New England Small Farmer Project. The newsletters of each program have been combined. A major goal will be for all six states to distribute technical and educational Extension materials in farm management, direct marketing, recordkeeping, etc.

The Green Mountain Farmer: Newsletter in Vermont

The first issue of the Green Mountain Farmer announced that it will be published every six weeks in Burlington, Vt., by the Vermont Small Farm Project. Publisher and editor is Ron Krupp. The first issue ran an agricultural directory.

Frank Porter Graham Center to Teach Small Farmers

The Frank Porter Graham Center and Demonstration Farm, Wadesboro, N.C., is establishing a two-year training program this is structured to teach 20 small farmers in farming practices for five months. Then, they will return to farms and 20 more will start the course.

Orphan Lambs Need Milk Replacer Available at All Times

The key to avoiding "potbellies and slow gains" with orphan lambs is to self-feed them cold milk replacer in a feeder. Simple, low-cost, milk feeders have been developed at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station and are now available through the Mid-States Wool Growers Cooperative, 3900 Groves Road, Columbus, Ohio 43227 (614-861-2533).

If you are interested in artificial rearing of orphan lambs, I suggest you ask Kenneth Frederiksen, U. S. Sheep Experiment Station, Dubois, Idaho 84323, for his paper on "Rearing Bonus Lambs." He also has suggested rations for lambs during the milk feeding and weaning period. His total feed and vaccination costs per lamb was \$32.83 (milk replacer \$10.78).

"Uncertain Harvest: The Family Farm in Arkansas"

The above title is a publication of the Ozark Institute, Eureka Springs, Ark. It was published as part of the Ozark Institute's Family Farm Development Project, assisted in part from grants from the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities, the Community Services Administration Region VI, and the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

The 150-page book has sections on: Defining the Family Farm, Surveying the Small Farmer, Who is Getting Rich and Why, Toward a Remedy, and a Summary. The price is \$10. For a copy of the book, write to the Ozark Institute, Box 549, Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632.

"Agricultural Lands: A Southern Perspective"

A 40-page report on "Agricultural Lands: A Southern Perspective" by Dr. Merle C. Prunty, Jr., University of Georgia, was presented at the National Lands Study workshops held in the Southern Region. It provides insight into the land base for agriculture in the South and gives possible reasons for its loss.

The report is being distributed by Bill Linder, Director, Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5406, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762, (601-325-5843). Contact him regarding copies.

What is the Coolidge Center?

The Coolidge Center for the Advancement of Agriculture is a part of the River Road Charitable Corporation. It was established in 1978 to explore alternative agricultural strategies for small farmers. The Center conducts a broad, interdisciplinary investigation of cropping systems, appropriate mechanization, animal husbandry, protected cultivation, long-term maintenance of soil fertility, and environmentally sound pest control. The address is Riverhill Farm, Topsfield, Mass. 01983. Subscription price of their quarterly is \$4 per year.

Feminine Farrowing Schools Popular in Missouri

By now it must be obvious who stays up nights with sows having pigs--it is the women! (Perhaps especially when the male spouse works off farm.) A year ago, the Extension specialists and the staff of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine teamed up to offer a workshop for women only on caring for a pregnant sow and farrowing. They received a lot more applications than the class could handle. Due to potential enrollment, the workshop was repeated around the state! Now, a followup advanced class including marketing, nutrition, health and breeding considerations has been held for 65 farm women who had graduated from the first farrowing school! The "Show Me" state uses real reproductive tracts from pregnant sows, and live pigs for castration and disease demonstrations...no theory...and students like it. (Has any other state started feminine farrowing schools?)

USDA Superior Service Award to Rupert Johnston, Mississippi

Dr. Rupert B. Johnston, chairman, Mississippi Small Farm Committee, and State Leader Extension Economics and Rural Development for the Cooperative Extension Service in Mississippi, was awarded the USDA Superior Service Award by Secretary of Agriculture Bergland on May 22.

Johnston was cited for his leadership in a wide range of educational programs designed to help farmers in general and specially small farmers. Last spring, he helped initiate a "Small Farm Day" in every county in Mississippi where small farmers listed needs which were distributed to the appropriate agency for action.

Comments from Sherri Geringer, Wyoming

Sherri Geringer and husband Jim attended the regional Small Farm Conference in Oregon in 1978, and I especially remember them because he attended the baby while she attended sessions as an official delegate. She was invited to attend a meeting of the Wyoming Rural Development Small Farmers Meeting and her comments included:

"I commend your committee for making the effort to share information from each agency and to work together for the benefit of the rural community. I feel it would be beneficial to let farmers know they are welcome to attend these meetings and suggest farmers would be interested in seeing a copy of the minutes of the meetings. Could the committee sponsor "how-to" workshops and seminars on alternative energy, and more efficient operation of farms and ranches as we face the difficult times ahead?"

FARMLINE

FARMLINE is a new monthly magazine designed to serve U. S. agriculture of the 1980's. It is published by USDA's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS), and will provide both the overall picture of trends in agriculture, as well as a wide range of unadorned facts. It will also cover developments in rural life, natural resources, farm finances, and a host of related items which affect the lives of farm families.

We think you'll find FARMLINE magazine a very useful periodical. The information has practical applications, and the arrangement of material is orderly so that time-pressed farmers can quickly find items of special interest. For information on how to receive FARMLINE, write ESCS-USDA, Room 505 GHI Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20250.

TVA-USDA Workshop on Programs and Methods Working With Small Farmers

The Science and Education Administration-USDA and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will co-sponsor a workshop on "Programs and Methods of Working with Limited Resource Rural Residents." It will be at the Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 28-30. Rates are: Single--\$23; double--\$30. Make your own reservations (1-800-251-6443) (Tenn. 615-266-4121).

The program is to be oriented primarily for those working with programs to assist limited resource rural families with some of the program participants from the field. For more details, contact Roger Woodworth, TVA, Muscle Shoals, Ala. 25660 (205-386-2393).

"Characteristics of Small Farm Families"

When John Crecink, Economic Development Division, ESCS, USDA, discussed "Characteristics of Small Farm Families" at the USDA Ag Outlook Conference, we had a limited number of copies.

The talk discusses "what is a small farm?", the USDA criteria to be used to identify small farm families, number and location of small farms, small farm characteristics, nonmetropolitan median family income by division and state (1975 and 1979) and some implications. We now have reprints. Let us know if you want copies and how many.

This report was prepared by Ovid Bay, Science and Education Administration-Extension, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250

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SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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PRODUCTION SECTION
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"Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming"

This comprehensive 104-page report was produced by a study team composed of government, industry and University scientists. It was designated in April 1979 by Dr. Anson Bertrand, Director, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture. In conducting this study, the USDA team relied on a variety of methods and sources to obtain information. These included:

- Selected on-farm case studies of 69 organic farms in 23 states.
- A Rodale Press survey of "The New Farm" magazine readership.
- An extensive review of the literature on organic farming published both in the U.S. and abroad.
- Interviews and correspondence with knowledgeable organic farming leaders, editors, spokesmen, and practitioners.
- Two study tours of organic farms and research institutes in Europe and Japan.

The 12 principal findings are discussed and summarized in the study which is available from/Publications Distribution and Requests, Room 6005-S, Science and Education Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

In conclusion, the study team found that many of the current methods of soil and crop management practiced by organic farmers are also those which have been cited as best crop management practices for controlling soil erosion, minimizing water pollution, and conserving energy.

Small Farms Research at Beltsville, Maryland

Some of the highlights from a tour of small farms research at the USDA Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland for USDA staff included:

- Thornless blackberries that are larger than your thumb and yeild up to 10 tons per acre.
- Dwarf fruit trees that you can pick from a platform instead of ladders, and use less chemicals for spraying.
- Fruit trees pruned "flat" so pickers can reach the middle from either side.
- Multiple cropping of vegetables to keep the ground producing up to 10 months a year and intensify income per acre.
- Four hours of artificial light per day doubled the growth of nursery stock in the first trial.
- Parasitic mites from El Salvador which look promising to control Mexican bean beetles.
- Parasitic nematodes from Peru which may help control the corn root worm.
- Forage systems for sheep that use cottonseed hulls and a minimum of grain.
- Tube stuffers to hold silage until ready to be fed to livestock.

Other stops on the tour gave results of sludge composting for small farms, pest control on small farms with a minimum of chemicals and beneficial insects, new varieties of lima beans and summer apples, and improving the shelf life of fruit and vegetables.

Howard "Bud" Kerr, Northeast Region Coordinator of Small Farm Research, Beltsville, arranged and conducted the tour. Guests included Alex Mercure, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development and Chairman of the USDA Small Farm Policy Committee.

"U.S. Farm Numbers, Sizes, and Related Structural Dimensions:
Projected to Year 2000"

A new ESCS publication with the above title is Technical Bulletin No. 1625. It projects the number of U.S. farms will continue to decline through the end of the century--from 2.9 million in 1974 to 2.1 million in 1990 and to 1.8 million in 2000, if present trends continue.

Much of the shift to larger farms will be due to the expected rise in the index of prices received by farmers rather than a rise in the real output per farm. By 2000, the largest 1 percent of farms will account for about half of all farm production. By contrast, 50 percent of farms -- the smaller ones -- will produce only 1 percent. Almost two-thirds of the production will likely come from the largest 50,000 farms, by 2000. There will be an increase in the number of farmers who own some land and rent the remainder they farm from others.

The report concludes that the accelerating capital requirements imply that the low-equity, young, potential farmers will have even more difficulty getting started in farming. There are other perceptive points in the 80-page report. For a copy write to:

Publications, ESCS, Room 0054, S. Bldg., U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Women from Small Farms Selected for Feminine Farrowing School

The 28 women "students" selected to attend a Feminine Farrowing School in Cape Girardeau were all members of the Small Farm Family Program in Missouri reports Kim Kennedy, Extension specialist. They were selected by the Extension assistants in the southeast area of the State. The school was organized by Alice Crites, area Extension family economics and management specialist.

Rose Mary Harris, one of the instructors, Lebanon, Mo., has been invited to other states to help conduct the popular farrowing schools.

Women Save More Dairy Calves

A Cornell University survey by Dennis Hartman shows that women do a better job of saving dairy calves than men! The score: Farm women lost only 14.7 percent of young farm animals; children lost 15.8 percent; employees lost 18 percent; and owners lost 18.8 percent.

Hartman has moved to the Extension staff of VPI&SU and will hold six meetings in December in different areas of Virginia just for women helping operate dairy farms. Wisconsin was a pioneer in scheduling meetings just for women on dairy farms.

Role of Wife Increases on Farms

Wisconsin farm wives' participation in labor and management is greater now than at any time in the recent past and their part in making farm decisions is increasing, according to a recent study by rural sociologist Eugene Wilkening, University of Wisconsin. Wives on Wisconsin dairy farms have a larger involvement in farm operations than wives on beef, hog or grain farms

Wives who work off the farm become less involved in farm chores and field work, but they tend to keep the records.

Alabama Small-Limited-Resource Farms Report for 1979

The Extension 1979 Alabama small farms report reflects the joint programs of the 1862 and 1890 Extension Service staffs, Tuskegee Institute and TVA with these highlights:

- Net cash income of Limited Resource Whole-Farm demonstrations averaged \$9,090 compared to \$4,049 in 1978.
- 459 families produced vegetables sold for \$66,249; preserved vegetables worth \$44,323; consumed vegetables worth \$72,230 and gave away vegetables worth \$9,007.
- 47 growers sold vegetables worth \$36,000 at the Jackson County Farmers Market in 1979 compared to 31 growers and \$22,000 in 1978.

Missouri Small Farm Family Program Report for 1979

The 1,761 small farm families enrolled in the Missouri Extension program in 1979 averaged an increase of 18 percent in net income compared to 1978. This program is conducted by the 1862 and 1890 staffs and included 135 minority families in 1979.

Other key results included:

--Over half of all the families in the program had an increase in net worth averaging \$1,419 per family.

--The 1,761 families produced and preserved \$288,339 worth of fruit, meat, and vegetables.

--417 families conducted an energy audit; 205 families insulated their homes; 230 families added insulation; and 710 families completed other weatherization practices.

The families farming full-time dropped from 30 percent to 25.7 percent, and 27 percent had less than 5 years farming experience.

"Credit Facts for Small Farmers"

The 34-page "Credit Facts for Small Farmers" prepared by the New England Small Farm Project looks very useful. It includes coverage of "qualities lenders look for in borrowers"; "tips for beginning applicants", "farm purchase by private sale" and a review of lending agencies and loan procedures. It was compiled by Susan Delf, staff member of the project.

ARC, TVA, and USDA Announce Joint Demonstrations

"Instruction for small farmers in growing new crops and using new marketing techniques" is one of the priority areas covered in the agreement signed by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The objective of the joint program is to focus the resources of all three agencies on solving problems of mutual concern in areas they all serve.

In the agricultural demonstration, small farmers and rural residents in three north Georgia counties (Fannin, Towns and Union) will be taught new ways of increasing production of high-value crops and livestock while at the same time saving energy. These counties were selected because they have access to the North Carolina Farmers Cooperative market at Murphy, North Carolina. The objective of the project is to increase the income of the small farm and to give young people interested in farming the help they need in starting.

Small Farmers Learn Management Skills Via Computer

Small farmers, many between the ages of 19 and 30, are learning valuable farm management skills through a computerized national pilot project initiated by the Minnesota Extension Service. Farmers Home Administration loan specialists in nine Minnesota counties are being trained by Extension to use its computerized financial management program in evaluating their farm loan applicants.

The 400 farmers who have been reached through the Farmers Home Administration in the two years the program has been in operation have learned how to keep proper financial records and how to make future financial plans and cash-flow projections. Many farmers with heavy debt and inefficient production have been able to bring their financial problems under control. Extension is now expanding the program to 37 counties reports Richard Hawkins, farm management specialist, Extension Service, University of Minnesota.

New Record-Keeping Book to Aid Small Farmers

Southern University (Louisiana) found in a study that small farmers had much poorer records than larger farmers. To help solve the problem, a new record-keeping book was devised to include not only the farming business but also family expenses and off-farm income. For small farm families, both of these items tend to be relatively more important than for larger-scale farmers points out Leroy Davis, agricultural economist.

Currently, the new record books are being used by a group of farmers in a special project with two goals: (1) Make the book available to small farmers; and (2) Assemble small-farm data from the record books to produce computer programs designed especially for small-farm management.

Montana Produces Small Landowner Reference Handbook

Here's a very useful idea to help staff working with small farmers. The Montana Extension specialists assembled a list of available publications by subject area for county extension staff working with the small farm family. For example, the notebook includes: Farm management, soils and agronomy, engineering, large animals, horticulture: garden, horticulture: fruit, horticulture: ornamentals, forestry, small animals and miscellaneous. Publications outside of Montana are included.

Georgia Small Farm Program Activity

Producers of vegetables and feeder pigs in Georgia will have demonstrations to see new technology according to Ron Atkinson, Extension Farm Management Specialist.

- The vegetable program stresses fresh vegetable crops and was "kicked off" on the J. D. Seabolt farm in Union County.

It is funded by TVA, Appalachian Regional Commission and the Georgia Extension Service.

- A swine unit is being established in northeast Georgia to serve as a training laboratory for new and established feeder pig producers, and others working with the swine industry. A 24-sow operation is planned by late fall at the Georgia Mountain Branch Experiment Station.

New Co-op Vegetable Packing Facility in Tennessee

The 35 vegetable farmers who have formed a co-op as the Tri-State F.A.R.M. Cooperative in Claiborne County, Tennessee, received an \$89,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to build and operate a vegetable packing facility. Others helping included the Tennessee Resource Development Committee, the East Tennessee Development District and the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. A local civic club provided the land for the facility, reports D. R. Humberd, Extension leader in Ag Econ and Resource Development, University of Tennessee.

Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Directory

The Pennsylvania Farm Vacation Association in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Rural Affairs printed a Farm Vacation Directory for 1980. It lists and describes 28 farms including rates with a map giving the locations. Most of the farms are working farms and smaller than average, but are interested in extra income. If you are interested to know how Pennsylvania Agriculture Bureau of Rural Affairs organized and operates a Farm Vacation Directory, write to the Bureau at 2310 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

New Direct Marketing Bibliography Available

A new Direct Marketing Bibliography, 1970-1980, lists 310 publications, directories, proceedings, etc., related to direct marketing. It was compiled by Ed Watkins, SEA-Extension, USDA. Copies are available from Randy Corley, Room 5503 S-Bldg., SEA-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

"Farmer-to-Consumer Direct Marketing in Six States"

About 15 percent of all farmers in Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio and Pennsylvania sold almost \$260 million worth of farm products directly to consumers in 1978. Other data includes:

- 70% of the 62,000 farmers selling direct in the six states were part-time farmers (76% had gross farm sales less than \$20,000).
- The 70% of farmers sold only 24% of total direct sales to consumers.
- 59% of the farmers sold from the farmhouse or another farm building; 12.5% from a roadside stand; 12% house-to-house; and 9% pick-your-own. For a copy of the complete report, write to ESCS Pub., Room 0054-South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

NRC To Do Inventory of Projects Relating to Limited Resource Farmers

The National Rural Center (NRC) is conducting an inventory of organizations and projects whose technical and organizational expertise is appropriate to work with limited resource farmers in developing nations. The U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) is funding the inventory which will be published as a directory.

Project staff at NRC will be contacting deans and directors at the Land Grant universities, private and voluntary organizations for assistance in identifying projects to be included in the inventory. For further information contact Heather Tischbein Baker, NRC, 2300 Shingletown Road, State College, PA 16801 (814-466-6632).

Letter to the Editor:

"I have just finished reading the USDA Small Farm Family Newsletter, Summer 1980 issue, and found it very useful." I have written for a number of the publications you announced as available.

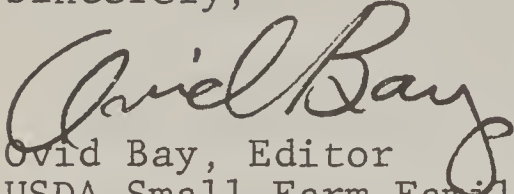
"I am the Small and Part-time Farming Extension Agent for the Southern Allegheny Region in Pennsylvania, which includes six counties. We plan to hold a Feminine Farrowing School this fall." --Gerald J. McCammon, Altonna, PA.

What Do You Expect from this Newsletter?

We hope this newsletter will not only produce useful information and tips as we find publications and other information, but that it can serve as an exchange to answer questions you may have or to report techniques and programs you find successful in reaching and teaching small and part-time farm families. Please remove the "bushel from your light" and let us hear from you...reports? clippings? programs?

Do you have educational materials others can buy? If so, include price. If you have a small farm newsletter, I would like to be on your mailing list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ovid Bay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Ovid Bay, Editor
USDA Small Farm Family Newsletter
SEA-Extension Room 6818-S
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250



SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

No. 6
Winter 1980

"Information Needs Relating to Small-Farm Programs and Policies"

In a superb and informative report prepared for Economics, Statistics Service, USDA, William E. Saupe, Department Ag. Econ., University of Wisconsin, suggests the information needed about small-farm families includes the following clusters:

- Small farm criteria and definitions
- Goals and goal achievement
- Problems and disadvantaged circumstances
- Human resources
- Community institutions
- Current use of resources to solve problems.

Saupe points out that no national or state-wide secondary data sources adequately include all of the above. For a copy of the 38-page report write to Tom Carlin, ESS-USDA, Room 492, GHI Bldg., 500 12th Street, Washington, DC 20250.

562 Leading Farmers Give Opinions on Farm Policy

In a mailed questionnaire to leading farmers in Missouri (1,000 mailed and 562 responded) in April 1980, the opinions and replies included:

1. Should the Federal government take steps to preserve family farming?

Yes--82%; No--11%; Not sure--7%; and No response--4%

2. First preference as means of expressing ideas about agricultural policy?

- (1) Write or telephone senator or congressman--44%
- (2) Work through a general farm organization--24%
- (3) Work through a farmers' cooperative--16%
- (4) Work through a commodity organization--7%
- (5) Work through a political party--7%

For a copy of the complete survey (MP 516, 1980) write to Dr. Harold Breimyer, Ag. Econ. Dept., Mumford Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

"Report and Recommendations on Organic Farming"

Dr. Garth Youngberg tells me he has enough copies of this new 94-page publication to fill all reasonable requests. Contact him at USDA-SEA-PPS, Room 415, Bldg. 005, BARC-W, Beltsville, MD 20705 (301-344-4278).

Two Small Farm Articles

If you do not see the "Rural Development Research and Education" publication of the Southern Rural Development Center, Box 5406, Mississippi State, MS 39762, you may want to write for the Winter 79/80 issue to review two articles:

-- "Farming Systems Research and Small Farm Development in Rural Communities of North Florida" by Dr. R. D. William and Dr. Elon Gilbert.

-- "Small Farming in Louisiana" by Dr. C. N. Hunte.

Proceedings: Southern Small Farm Management Workshop

This proceeding contains 24 papers from the workshop held October 25-27, 1978 in Nashville. Copies are available from the National Fertilizer Development Center, TVA, Muscle Shoals, AL 35660.

"Characteristics of Small Farm Families" Still Available

Some copies of this report by John Crecink are still available. Write to Tom Carlin, ESS-USDA, Room 492, GHI Bldg., 500 12th Street, Washington, DC 20250 (202-447-8366).

Who Lives In The Country? Six Types of People

Six types of open country residents have been identified by Herbert F. Lionberger and John Holik, rural sociologists at the University of Missouri. They are: (1) Committed Farmers, (2) Reluctant Residents, (3) Nature Lovers, (4) Guests of the Country, (5) Child "Raisers", and (6) Agrarian Cornerstones.

For a 4-page discussion of the six types, write to Joel Hartman, 106 Sociology Bldg., University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 and ask for October issue of Missouri People and Communities.

Does Your State Have An Aquaculture Plan?

Three states now have an aquaculture plan to help the state reach its full potential in fish farming. They are: Hawaii, North Carolina and Missouri. Something to initiate in your state?

4 Limited Resource Farmers Featured in Kansas Media

"Making a small farm work means hard work, resourcefulness and going outside for advice," observed Kansas dairy farmer Wayne Lehman to George Brandsberg, assistant Extension editor at KSU. He was one of four limited resource farmers Brandsberg interviewed for a series of four features distributed to the media in Kansas in an effort to inform small farmers about USDA agencies offering help, and the public about the problems of small and part-time farming.

"Roadside Marketing: Quick Bibliography Series"

This series on Roadside Marketing has 75 citations from 1970 to 1980 and is dated September 1980, NAL-Bibl.--80-29. To request a copy, send the title, series number, and a return addressed gummed label to: Reference Branch, TIS, SEA, USDA, National Agricultural Library Building, Beltsville, MD 20705.

"Profiles of Families Living on Small Farms"

The University of Missouri staff at both Land Grant Institutions working with the small farm program has compiled a new summary profile to the 8,527 small farm families which have been enrolled. Personal interviews by the Education Assistants provided the data which relates to family income, home gardening, future plans and problems to be overcome by small farm families.

For a copy, contact Ed Wiggins, Ag. Econ., Dept., Mumford Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

"The North Dakota Small Farm Family Project"

The goal of the North Dakota Small Farm Family Project is to reach and involve small farm families in 15 counties in USDA programs, according to April Johnson, project coordinator. ACTION agency has supplied 13 VISTA workers who are mostly retired farmers and ranchers and average 71 years old. The North Dakota State Economics Opportunity Office is supplying most of the supervision, training and coordination. For further information and/or a copy of their report, contact April Johnson, SE00, 18th Floor, Capitol Bldg., Bismarck, ND 58505.

Senior Citizens Shop at Farmers' Markets

In a California study which interviewed 587 customers at 17 certified farmers' markets, senior citizens made a heavy representation. Most customers lived within 2 miles of the market and freshness and lower price were among the key reasons they shop at the farmers' market. Many of the elderly customers also valued the social atmosphere of the markets as "a great way to start a Saturday."

14-State Study of Extension Small Farm Programs in the South

The 14-state study of Cooperative Extension Small Farm Programs in the South has now been summarized in Research Division Bulletin No. 153. The study found 23 Extension programs directed towards operators of small farms in the 14 states involving over 250 paraprofessional and professional field workers intensively assisting more than 5,000 families annually. For a copy, write to Extension Publications Office, VPI&SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Two New Fact Sheets for Small Farmers

"Swine and Farrowing and Nursery Unit" (4 pages) (Includes 4-sow plan) "Before You Go Into Dairying" (4 pages) (Includes some cost estimates).

For a single copy, write Extension Publications, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

Family Farmers Greatest Information Needs in Marketing and Production

The family farmer had the greatest information need in marketing and production technology according to a study made in Missouri by Brown and Collins. Business management and farm policy ranked less important.

The farmers considered marketing firms their best source of marketing information, farm magazines next, then radio and TV. For production information, they looked first to extension and universities, then to farm magazines.

Crossbreeding Benefits May Be Extended to Small Beef Herds

"We believe we can extend the advantages of crossbreeding to small beef herds where complex crossbreeding systems are not now practical," says geneticist Keith Gregory at the U.S. Meat Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska. The key will be to produce a line of beef cattle with the benefits of crossbreeding already built-in. These cattle would then be managed like straightbreds of a single breed.

Three lines are now being developed and six more years will be needed to complete foundation matings and to determine the percentage of the initial heterosis retained.

Research on Animal-Drawn Equipment

That's right. Engineers at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); Ahdhra Pradesh, India 502324, are working on the development of animal-drawn equipment that will give mechanized efficiency of fuel-powered tractor operations and at a price the small farmers can afford to pay. The engineers are working on refinements of equipment pulled by bullocks.

Watershed management research at ICRISAT includes growing crops on broadbeds while catching rain in small reservoirs for limited irrigation to break severe mid-season drouths.

"Cash Crop": New Magazine

Billed as a new magazine for "Small Farm Marketing and Management", Cash Crop will be published six times a year by The Farmstead Press, Box 111, Freedom, ME 04941 (\$12 for six issues.)

\$450 Net Income From One Acre of Catfish?

Gene Poirot, 80, Dade County, Missouri, has spent 35 years researching fish production in farm ponds. He estimates a 1-acre pond will support 1,000 catfish or 2,000 lbs. in two years. If marketed at \$1 per pound, the income would be \$2,000 for the two-year period. If expenses of stocking and feeding totals \$1,100, net income for the period is \$900, or \$450 per acre per year. Fertilized water, available for garden use or crop irrigation, is an added bonus (Today's Farmer, January 1980).

One Farm Worker Now Feeds 68 People.

ESCS figures show that 1 farm worker in the U.S. now feeds 68 people (up from 47 in 1970 and 16 in 1950). Those 68 people consist of 48 in the U.S. and 20 overseas who use our exports. Note: Those 68 are fed by one U.S. farm worker, not one farmer. The figure per farmer would be much larger. (Farm workers include farmers, family help, and hired farm workers).

Another comparison: U.S. farmers produce 375,000 pounds of raw food products each; European farmers, 35,274; Russian farmers, 33,069; and African and Asian 4,409 apiece. And, U.S. farmers have tripled their production per hour of labor in the last 20 years--six times greater than their nonfarm counterparts. All this ought to be useful in your next speech or newsletter!

Carry Insurance If You Offer Farm Vacations

This bit of advice from Thomas Inswiler, Farm Vacation Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: You will need to have insurance covering such activities on the farm as horse back riding, swimming and other activities where an accident might occur. If you know a company offering this coverage, please give me the details for this letter.

New England Fuelwood Project Is Working

The New England fuelwood project, expanded to all 50 New England counties, has now completed its first full year of operation. Using Agricultural Conservation Program funds, the State Foresters provided technical assistance and cost sharing to over 2,000 private land-owners to improve access and develop management plans for farm woodlots being cut for firewood. The managed stands produced 125,000 cords of fuelwood while the best trees were saved for sawlogs. The program provides free technical assistance to mark timber for harvest and 75 percent of the cost of temporary access roads. For more information contact your county forester or county ASCS office.

"Design, Operation, and Feasibility of a Small On-the-Farm
Egg Grading and Packing Plant"

In this research report "small" is designed for 108,000 laying hens and up to 180,000! This size operation is feasible with a spread of at least 16.5 cents per dozen between farm and retailer's prices and at least 12.9 cents between retailer and consumer. For a copy write to Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250 and ask for Marketing Research Report No. 1112 with the above title.

Missouri Small Farm Program Featured in Farm Magazine

The July/August issue of The New Farm magazine has a feature on the Missouri Extension Small Farm Family Program featuring the one-on-one approach to reach small and part-time farmers.

The article quotes Ed Wiggins, leader of the Missouri program:
"The real key to the success of this program is the genuine interest of the assistants in helping the families they work with. They get acquainted with the families, learn about their goals, problems and future plans. Then, they acquaint them with the various individuals, agencies and organizations that may be able to help them."

New Massachusetts Publications for Small Scale Farming

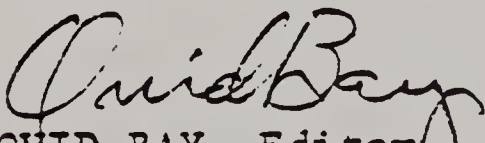
Answering our request, "What materials do you have for small and part-time farmers?" Robert Christensen, Extension Economist, University of Massachusetts, Draper Hall, Room 235, Amherst, MA 01003, sends excellent copies of these publications which have budgets and estimated costs and returns:

- Economic Aspects of Sheep Production In New England (C-146)
- Economics of Beef Production in Massachusetts (C-145)
- Economics for Small Scale Food Producers (C-123). (Process and enterprise budgets on sweet corn, lambs, broilers, laying hens, hogs, steers, strawberries and blueberries).

Contact Christensen for single copies. You can xerox copies as desired.

What do you have we should mention?

Sincerely,



OWID BAY, Editor
USDA Small Farm Family Newsletter
SEA-Extension, Room 6818-S
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

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SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

No. 7
Spring 1981

Symposium: "Research for Small Farms" Will Be Nov. 15-18

A special symposium entitled, Research for Small Farms, will take place at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, November 15-18, 1981. The purpose of the symposium is to identify the needs of small-scale operators and to report the results of research tailored to this segment of agriculture.

Speakers will include farmers, economists, editors, researcher leaders and foundation representatives in addition to scientists from state experiment stations and universities nationwide and from the USDA's Science and Education Administration. Other USDA agencies will also be represented.

For further information write to Howard W. Kerr, Jr., Room 230, Building 003, BARC-West, Beltsville, MD 20705, or call (301) 344-3087.

California Small Farm Program Includes Junior Colleges

The "California Open Access Information System for Small Farmers" is sponsored by some 17 organizations, called the Small Farmer Information Access Council, in a new and major effort to reach and serve small and Spanish farm families.

A "Resource Center" located at Junior Colleges is one of the project components. Roy Ekland is Director of the Small Farm Resource Center at Hartnell College, Salinas, California. He will provide

coordination of technical assistance available from members of local institutions who are members of the Council. The Resource Centers will provide new "learning materials" as well as materials already available. For example, Ekland and Miguel Ramos worked with the Confederation Agricola de California to prepare a bilingual manual on "The Control of Strawberry Pests." It has functional color photos to aid in the identification of damage by specific pests. The list of acknowledgements who contributed to the manual emphasizes the cooperation of resource people who are willing to help provide learning materials for small farmers.

The Reedley Community College in Reedley, California, is preparing a Resource Center and others are being considered. The Central Information Service "component of the project which consists of a "Data Bank," a "clearing house on Agricultural Information for Small Farmers," and a "Resource Library" is located at the University of California/Davis. It is so organized that information is retrieved easily and made available to Council member institutions as well as to the Resource Centers at the Junior Colleges, and other public and private institutions in the State. Tom Haller is Executive Secretary of the Council and Dennis Stewart is Director. Dr. Clair Christensen, University of California Cooperative Extension, (Davis) is advisor to the project. The "Small Farmer Training" component of the project will include farm demonstrations, short courses, and hopefully, some innovative training approaches will be developed.

The creation of the Council has increased the focus on the small farm problems in California. For instance, the California Extension Service has added 7 bilingual assistant county advisers to increase service to the Spanish speaking farmer audience. Hartnell College has loaned some computer hardware to Confeoeracion Agricola and staff assistance to develop the software for management staff of member small producer cooperatives to use in preparing budgets, financial statements, and tax statements, etc.

The Open Access Information System for Small Farmers project is designed for two years and is being funded initially by the State (California) CETA office for \$500,000. This does not include all of the "in kind" support by members of the Council.

Missouri Extension and IRS Staffs Team Up To Help Small Farmers

Most "income tax workshops" end up being attended by the larger farmers. The Missouri Cooperative Extension Service and the Internal Revenue Service switched the audience by holding joint educational training conferences for Missouri's Small Farm Family Program "education assistants" (paraprofessionals) in January.

Reference materials were prepared for the education assistants to use when making farm visits to participating small and part-time farm families points out Leonard Douglas, Extension Director. These will

be used by 38 education assistants in 33 counties with about 2,000 families before the April 15 deadline for tax returns, reports Ed Wiggins, coordinator of the Missouri program. Herb Freer, Public Affairs Officer, IRS, Box 1147, Central Station, St. Louis, MO. 63188, could send you single copies of the IRS materials used in the workshops.

New England Small Farm Program Receives \$32,500 from Churches

The New England Small Farm Management Assistance Program conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts has received a total of \$32,500 from the United Presbyterian Church, the Episcopal Church and the American Baptist Church to carry out this management program for small and part-time farmers this year according to Bob Geffon, Small Farm and Rural Development Specialist. The funds will be distributed to the Extension Services in the six New England States to hire six part-time paraprofessional Small Farm Management Assistants to work in selected counties.

Tuskegee: Using Paraprofessionals With Limited Resource Swine Producers

The summary of a three-year special project funded by USDA-SEA-Extension with 240 limited resource farmers and 12 paraprofessionals shows the following highlights:

- An increase of 157 percent in number of participants attending tours, meetings, and demonstrations sponsored by the Extension Service.
- Percent change increase working with: Extension 77; ASCS 28; FmHA 24; SCS 19; Human Resources Development Center 19.
- Income from sale of hogs increased 15.6 percent.
- More than 60 percent had adopted recommended feeding practices.

The paraprofessionals scored very well with the farmers: Communicated well, knowledgeable or well aware of problems, concerned about helping, worked well with participants, and influential in helping bring about positive changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations of the participants says the final report. Algie Key was one of the main coordinators of the project and P.W. Brown is Administrator of Extension at Tuskegee.

Small Farm Survey Underway in the Northeast Region

A study funded by the Northeast Center for Rural Development, Cornell University, is to provide both a regional and a State-by-State picture of "who is out there" plus information about their needs for Extension assistance and research. The study is being conducted by the Rural Renaissance Committee with Silas Weeks, chairman, and other members, Jack Hunter, Fred Schmidt and Tom Weaver.

Direct mail is being used. For example, a list of about 2,500 addresses were compiled by the U.N.H. Extension Service in cooperation with the New Hampshire Small Farms Task Force -- an outgrowth of the 1978 Regional Small Farm Conference held at Poland Springs, Maine. The survey was mailed to every 5th name on this list... approximately 500. Early returns of 137 questionnaires show: 1 out of 4 considered farming as either their sole or principal occupation; almost one-third considered their farm primarily as a residence; two-thirds of the adults grew up in their present community or the state; 12 percent said principal operator and decision maker was female; a retirement income and one person working off the farm was the first source of income. A final report is expected by September.

Farming Systems Research (FSR); A Critical Appraisal by Michigan State University

The Symposium on Farming Systems Research in Washington, D.C. on December 8-9, 1980 gave me a short course in "What is FSR?" If you are an economist, you may have your own definition. Here's the characteristics of FSR according to the authors of Michigan State University Rural Development Paper No. 6, 1980: (By E.H. Gilbert, D.W. Norman, and F.E. Winch)

1. Farming Systems Research (FSR) views the farm or production unit and the rural household or consumption unit -- which in the case of small farmers are often synonymous -- in a comprehensive manner (has the active participation of the farmer in the research process.) FSR also recognizes the interdependencies and interrelationships between the natural and human environments. The research process devotes explicit attention to the goals of the whole farm/rural household and the constraints on the achievement of these goals.
2. Priorities for research reflect the holistic perspective of the whole farm/rural household and the natural and human environments.
3. Research on a sub-system can be considered part of the FSR process if the connections with other sub-systems are recognized and accounted for.
4. Farming systems research is evaluated in terms of individual sub-systems and the farming system as a whole.

The FSR approach is generally practical oriented and basically much broader than studying one or two factors at a time exemplified by commodity research programs. It reminds me of a farm and home management program initiated in the late '40's by Jim Birch, Director of Extension in Missouri. It was called "Balanced Farming" and stressed the holistic approach using research results ready for application.

For a copy of the Michigan Paper, contact MSU Rural Development Papers, Dept. of Agr. Economics, 206 International Center, MSU East Lansing, MI 48824.

Strategies for Small Farmer Development: A Report for AID

A study for AID which included results of 36 rural development projects in 11 African and Latin American Countries in 1975 has some findings which relate to having success working with small farmers. The examples of overall success included:

- Small farmer involvement in decision-making in the implementation phase of a development project.
- Small farmer resource commitment of labor and cash to a development project.
- The specificity of the agricultural information offered by the Extension Service.
- The importance of local organizations in the project.
- An effective two-way communications flow between project participants and project management and staff.

The report concludes: "The most valuable assistance a foreigner can give small farmers will rarely be large amounts of money for machinery or infrastructure development. Rather it is a plan, based on the realities of the small farmer's own situation, whereby he can move himself ahead without becoming dependent on outside foreign assistance." And, it stressed the need for a healthy appreciation for the perceptions, interests and risk considerations of small farmers. Not too different from working with small farm families in the U.S.?

Hunger No. 27, February, 1981

The February issue of "Hunger No. 27" includes a summary of the national religious conference held in Washington, D.C., Dec. 3-5, 1980. The theme was on public policy and the structure of U.S. agriculture with an endorsement of small and moderate-sized farms. Approximately 100 attended with 13 denominations and 5 economical agencies participating. "Hunger" is prepared by Interreligious Taskforce on U.S. Food Policy and published by "National Impact," 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Single copies are 15 cents.

California Law Gives Definition for "Organic Products"

After next January 1, the use of the terms "organic" or "organically grown", "naturally grown", "wild", "ecologically grown", or biologically grown" in the labeling or advertising of food may only be allowed under certain conditions in California.

To qualify, the foods must be without applied coloring or synthetically compounded materials. Farm products must be in the unpeeled natural form. They must also be produced, harvested, distributed, stored, processed and packaged without application of synthetically compounded fertilizers, pesticides or growth regulators.

Prohibited crop treatments -- like pesticides -- may not be applied to the field or area where the crops are to be grown for 12 months prior to seed planting or transplanting. (Washington Post, Jan. 8, 1981).

Farmline Is ESS Magazine

Farmline is published 11 times a year by USDA's Economics and Statistics Service. It contains considerable outlook material. Subscription price is \$10 a year. Ask for Farmline, make checks payable to Superintendent of Documents and order from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Small Farm Directory for 12 Northeast States

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development has compiled and published "Small Farm Directory: Land Grant University Personnel in the Northeast." Actually, Virginia M. Caye lists only the personnel who have indicated an interest or involvement in small farm topics and persons with substantive activity are indicated. The first section is an alphabetical listing of names, addresses and phone numbers, along with a brief statement of each person's interest and/or work related to small farms.

Finally, an appendix has been included which contains a sample of rural development resource materials available through the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development and several other sources. For a single copy, contact Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, 242 Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. (Publication #26).

"Growing Quality Vegetables in Florida"

A new circular on "Growing Quality Vegetables in Florida" is aimed at the small and part-time farmers in Florida. It guides the small vegetable farmer on types of plants to grow and how to care for them points out Clarence Edmond, director of the Center for Community and Rural Development, which helped finance the effort. It was prepared by R.D. William, Extension Vegetable Specialist. In addition to being an excellent publication, the appendix includes sources of additional information on production, harvesting and marketing. For single copies, contact Clarence at 3042 McCarty Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. (904-392-1718).

Northeast Rural Producer Cooperative Conference

The New England Small Farmer Project played a major role in planning and supporting the Rural Producer Cooperative Conference at Amherst, Mass. Approximately 100 attended the workshops covering how to start and maintain a cooperative and commodity workshops in forestry, fishing, wool, energy, and rural crafts, reports Susan Delf, information specialist with the Small Farmer Project.

The Kennebec Valley Grower's Association in Maine provided a model of an on-going cooperative. "Small farmers are seeking a stable and cost-effective system for gaining access to the food marketing system, and moving beyond farmer's markets," suggests Bob Geffen, Extension specialist with the Small Farmer Project.

A. T. Times: Journal of Appropriate Technology

A new tabloid-size issued every two months is the A.T. Times published at Butte, Montana, by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). Early issues have been funded by the Community Services Administration. Subscription price is \$3.50 for four issues or \$10 for 12 issues. Send payments to NCAT, Box 3838, Butte, MN 59701.

NCAT also is handling several publications dealing with solar energy, alcohol fuels, etc. You may want to ask for the list.

Family Goals: Missouri Evaluation Project

The Family Farm Development program in Missouri works with families who were in the process of becoming established in farming and who are enrolled in this special education program. In an evaluation of the Family Economics and Management dimension, 71 respondents in Jan.-Feb. 1979 gave goals the following ranking:

1. To give desirable personal values to the children.
2. To reduce indebtedness.
3. To increase savings.
4. College education for the children.
5. To improve family relations.
6. To be financially secure in retirement
7. To improve health.
8. To increase the general level of living.

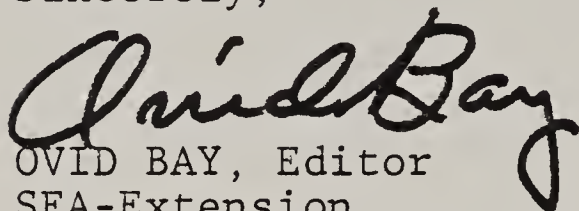
Compared with data from 1977, the respondents in 1979 tended to increase recreation. improve health insurance and to improve family relations than they did in 1977.

Iowa Legislature Authorizes \$150 Million Bonds to Help Young Farmers

Last year the Iowa Legislature authorized the sale of bonds to generate up to \$150 million which could be loaned to young or beginning farmers. The program would be conducted by the Iowa Family Farm Development Authority (Family Farm Board.) However, no loans have been made yet and will not be made until the sources of funding are resolved.

Do you have examples of State or County Small Farm Family newsletters you might send us? What else do you have which might help readers of this newsletter? We would like to make this newsletter a real exchange. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



OVID BAY, Editor

SEA-Extension

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

(202-447-8120)

RECORDS



SMALL FARM FAMILY NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

No. 8
Summer 1981

"How Do Public Policies Affect Beginning Farmers"

This 4-page fact sheet takes a brief look at some aspects of starting farming as a family farmer, as a worker and manager and as a supplier of capital. The authors, Coy G. McNabb, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211 (for single copies) and Martin K. Christiansen, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Minnesota, say that "if a family farm agriculture is to be maintained, some way must be found for the beginning farmer to gain entry to farming."

They suggest that, if the trend away from family farming is to be reversed, two lines of action are probably necessary: (1) change the public policies on taxation, credit and farm programs that place the beginning farmer at a disadvantage, and (2) provide public financial incentives for beginning farmers.

"Small Family Farms in American Agriculture: Projected Incomes for North Central Iowa Small Farms"

This is a study of Iowa Small Farms projecting income for 5 years, but the conclusions apply more or less to small farmers everywhere. I'm referring to the 108-page CARD report by Mark R. Drabenstott and Earl O. Heady, Iowa State University. Points in the summary and conclusions include:

The high equity small farm will survive.

The future of the small low equity and tenant farms is much less certain. Off-farm income plays a crucial role in the survival of the small low equity or tenant farm. Nonfarm income makes the difference between positive net income or net loss.

The small tenant farm cannot earn a positive net income in 1984 regardless of size or farm price level.

Few possibilities will exist for young farmers to purchase small farms with limited equity capital and earn positive returns.

The real social costs of a small farm-oriented agriculture lie in higher food prices and government subsidies to small farms. The benefits consist of stronger rural communities, less concentration in food production and the continuation of an American social tradition—the small family farm.

For a copy of the report, send \$3 to Vicki Jennings, 578 East Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011.

Missouri: Direct Marketing Series Budgets Including U-Pick

Budget guides for small commercial producers prepared by W. W. "Bud" Thomas, Extension Direct Marketing Specialist, and Ed Wiggins, program leader for small farm programs in Missouri are very useful, reports Kim Kennedy, Area Extension Specialist.

These guides for direct marketing include: U-Pick budgets for grapes, blackberries, apples, red raspberries, blueberries, peaches, strawberries, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, canteloupe, pumpkin, and snap beans.

They also have a three-part rabbit budget: beginning, standard and commercial.

Write to Ed Wiggins, Mumford Hall, Extension Service, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, for single copies.

"The New Reforestation Tax Incentives"

On October 14, 1980, the President signed into law two new tax incentives for virtually all persons who plant trees on their property. The maximum expenditure eligible for this new tax treatment is \$10,000 per year. An excellent summary with details and key provisions is the 6-page folder with the above title. If your local county agent or forester does not have a copy, contact Forest Industries Committee on Timber Valuation and Taxation, 1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (202)223-2314.

Vermont: What To Do with 10 Acres of Land

Highlights of the Small Farm Program in Vermont include:

Workshops this fall on "What to do with 10 Acres of Land?" As part of these workshops, a series of fact sheets called "Farming for Fun or Profit" are being prepared according to Don McFeeters, Extension leader for small farm programs.

Eight regional credit workshops for small scale producers were held in conjunction with the Farmers Home Administration.

A statewide forage and pasture seminar was conducted for sheep breeders, and "teams" have been created to focus on livestock and small fruit and vegetables.

Southern Allegheny Extension Region Has Small Farms Program

The six-county Southern Allegheny Extension Region in Pennsylvania is developing a Small Farms Program according to David L. Kantner, assistant director for that region. Primary emphasis the first 15 months has been individual assistances, group meetings, development of demonstration farms, development of some educational packets and a Small Farms Newsletter distributed by county agents in the region.

Small Farmers Lack Knowledge of Local Agencies

One of the major problems of small farm families is their lack of knowledge of various local resource agencies. This has been highlighted once again by a mail survey and personal interviews involving 31 families in North Carolina. Clyde Chesney, Extension, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, N.C. 27411, and Richard Gordon, program assistant, report that (out of 31) 19 knew the Extension personnel by name, 7 knew the Forest Service, 7 knew the Soil Conservation, 1 knew the Wildlife Resource Commission, and none knew any personnel at Parks and Recreation or at the U.S. Corps of Engineers. For a single copy of the report, contact Chesney.

"The Future of the Family Farm: Questions and Answers"

The 16-page booklet with the above title has been prepared and distributed by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. Author is Joseph Coffey, agricultural economist. You can contact Extension Warehouse, Cooperative Extension Support Services, VPI&SU Blacksburg, VA 24061 for single copies.

California Has Seven Bilingual County Advisers

The California Extension Services has seven staff who are bilingual in English and Spanish to better serve the Spanish small farm families in seven counties in the state, reports Clair Christensen. California was one of the states which reported some increase in small farm numbers in the last census. In a continuing effort to better serve small farmers, California has established an Extension Small Farm Advisory Committee and three State Extension Specialists in Farm Management for Small Farmers.

Reindeer Newsletter in Alaska

"Rein-News" is a new newsletter for reindeer owners, herders, and others interested and/or involved in the reindeer industry. It is edited by Virgil Severns, District Resource Extension Agent, Nome, Alaska. It covers Reindeer Fairs, a reindeer symposium and production problems such as the warble fly.

"American Agriculture: Focus on the Future"

The June issue of Farmline is a special issue looking at the future for agriculture in the U.S. It has several features related to the topic. For a single copy, write to Eric Van Chantfort, editor,



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Farmline, Room 505, GHI Bldg., ESS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.
Indicate if you wish to receive the magazine each month.

"Agricultural-Food Policy Review: Perspectives for the 1980's"

The above title contains nine articles to provide background for new legislation to replace the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977. Each article draws a perspective on economics and policy related to the Act of 1977. For a copy of the 148-page report, write to Publications, ESS, Room 0054, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C., 20250.

Arkansas Has Three Enterprise Guides for Small Farmers

If you are looking for good examples of "1981 Enterprise Budget Guides for Small and Part-time Farmers", you will be interested in three prepared by Learrie White, Extension Farm Management Specialist, University of Arkansas, Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203. They include vegetable crops, feeder pigs and rabbits.

Organic Farming and Gardening Bibliography Series

An Organic Farming and Gardening Bibliography Series with 248 citations has been prepared by Jayne MacLean, NAL. For a copy, write to Reference Branch, TIS, SEA-USDA, National Agricultural Library Bldg., Beltsville, MD 20705.

High Tensile Multi-Wire Electric Fence

This electric fence consists of special class III zinc galvanized High Tensile Steel wire stretched between solid end strainer assemblies to a tension of between 150 and 200 foot lbs. These wires are attached to super strong heavy duty fiberglass line posts at intervals ranging from 20 to 50 feet. For more details write the Waterford Corp., Box 1513, 216 Commerce Drive, Ft. Collins, CO 80522.

Bumper Sticker in California: "Small Farms Make Sense"

Among other activities, the Small Farm Center University of California, Davis, has produced a bumper sticker which says, "Small Farms Make Sense".

Bilingual Small Farm Newsletter

"Niticiro Agricola" is the bilingual bi-monthly news letter for small farm families produced by the Extension Service in Fresno County, California. A copy was routed to us by Pedro Ilic, Farm Adviser for Small Farms. It is oriented to horticultural crops and appears very useful with details on variety trials.

Sincerely,

Ovid Bay

OVID BAY, Editor
Extension Service

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